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Mosquitoes

## Mosquito Pool Tests Positive in Fairfax County

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)

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Sully District e -Newsletter

Dr. Carol Sharrett, M.D., director of the Fairfax County Health Department, announced today that a mosquito trap that was placed last evening in the area of Mustang Drive in the Herndon area of Fairfax County captured *Anopheles* mosquitoes that tested positive for malaria. Additional mosquitoes will be captured and tested to verify these results.

"We wanted to find out if malaria-infected mosquitoes were present in Fairfax County since positive pools were found in eastern Loudoun County," according to Sharrett. "Mosquitoes don't recognize county borders. This shows that we have a regional problem. Additional testing will help determine its nature and extent. Surveillance for possible human cases of malaria is ongoing."

A woman from this general area of the county was recently diagnosed with malaria, but due to her history of travel to a country where malaria is endemic, it is likely that she acquired the infection overseas. There is no evidence that her case is related to the positive mosquito pool. In the year 2000, 23 of the 55 cases of malaria in Virginia were in Fairfax County, and 38 of the cases were in Northern Virginia. All 55 statewide cases that year were linked to travel.

Following the state protocols, the county is conducting aggressive larviciding of the area within a one-mile radius of the location of the positive mosquito pool; this includes treatment of standing water sites by hand and wooded areas by off-terrain vehicles since this location is in a rural area of the county.

The Health Department continues to ask residents to be more conscious of the need to eliminate mosquito-breeding areas around their homes. The most effective way to control mosquitoes is to tip any containers and toss any standing water. In addition, the Health Department recommends observing the following precautions to avoid being bitten:

- Wear long sleeves and long pants.
- Use an insect repellent indicated for mosquitoes and apply according to label instructions.
- Use yellow "bug lights" for outdoor lighting.
- Make sure all windows and door screens are in good repair and free from holes.

Residents are also advised to seek treatment for symptoms of fever, chills or flu-like illness.

For more information on malaria, go to the Fairfax County Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency), and click on malaria under mosquitoes.

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